THE

REHEARSAL

OR,

A Brief Recapitulation

Of All, or Most of the ARGUMENTS for and against the Bishop of BANGOR'S SERMON preach'd before the KING, on Sunday the 31st Day of March, 1717.

WITH

The Principal Heads of the REPORT from the Committee appointed by the Lower House of Convocation, to draw up a REPRESENTATION to the Lords the Bishops thereupon:

AS ALSO

EXTRACTS from a Pretended Antimer thereunto called, The Report Reported; and Reasons for Proroguing the said Convocation, in order to put an End to their Synodical Proceedings against the Bishop above-mentioned.

By a true Lover of our happy Constitution both in Church and State.

LONDON:

Printed for S. BAKER, at the Black-Boy and Anchor in Paier-Nofter-Row. 1717.

Price Six-pence.

4.8

REHEARSAL:

SOR

A Brief Recapitulation

OF AM OR MOR of the ARGUMENTS:

Are and see James Builds of Bandon's

SE MACOM proach abstore the KYN G.

The governous the graph Bay of March, 1717.

The Principal (See East) Report from the Gornal test specially and the Lower Lower Lower to the Committee of the Committee of

AS ALTO

Listanter (1905) a fire (1905) Antipolic (1906) Antipolic

Es a time Lover of the bappy Confittution Love - in Managery and Diagrams

LONDONE.

Printed I c 3. BAKKE as the Block DD and ducker and control of the Book and the Boo

July 25.1)



the said Prince of H T . The Month of the Month

REHEARSAL:

there convery dow, A O the Secondary will

and Oramances about by Charle to his Apolitical

A Brief RECAPITULATION of All, or Most of the Arguments for and against the Bishop of Bangor's SERMON, &c.



HE great Sir Henry Wooton, a Perfon Eminent for many wife Remarks and judicious Sayings, was fam'd for no one Sentence more than this shore Aphorism, Disputandi, Prurigo, est Scabies Ecclesia, the Itch of Reli-

gious Disputes is the Mange of the Church; and he deservedly thought it sufficient to discover, who lay under the Tomb provided for him after his Interment in Eaton Chapel, to have it inscribed thereon, that the Author of that Sentence was buried there, exclusive of any Name or Title. Nor would it be hurtful to the Peace of the Church and State, if we now gave into the same Opinion, which was held by that most Excellent Person in his Days. But, such is our Thirst after Novelties; such is our avaisations.

ricious Defire of entertaining new Schemes of Religion and Government; fuch our Ambition of giving Vent to Systems in both, of our own composing, and of wrangling our felves into a Reputation by broaching Teners that may give a Handle for further Contentions, that we no longer have an Eve towards the Old Ways in which our Fore-Fathers trod, but are fixed upon Pursuits altogether unknown to the Profestors of Primitive Christianity, and wholly foreign to the Practice of the First Ages since the Manifesta. tion of our Saviour in the Flesh, and his blessed Advent for the Redemption of Mankind. The Laws and Ordinances given by Christ to his Apostles, and by them conveyed down to their Successors, were always held facred and inviolate by them, and they gave an implicit Belief to the Mysteries of his Holy Birth and Refurrection, without discuffing the Poffibility of the one, or entring into Arguments about the Reasonableness of the other. These Enquiries were left to less innocent Times, when the Temprer should be more predominant, and People under Pretence of feeking Explanations, should involvé one another in much greater Perplexities: An Experiment, howfoever dangerous, grown into great Use with our modern Writers, especially from the Time in which the last Century was growing towards a Conclusion.

There we meet with a notable Instance of this Nature, and during the sitting of the Convocation too, in the Writings of Dr. Sherlock Dean of St. Pauls, Dr. South Prebendary of Westminster, and Canon of Christ Church in Oxford, and Dr. Burnet Master of the Charter-House. The First had taken upon him to set forth a Book under the specious Pretence of Vindicating the Blessed Trinity, wherein he very erroneously afferted, There were Three distinct

(3)

Stin& Persons, alias Godheads, in the Trinity: At which the Second took the Alasm, and with much Heat and Passion, as well as great Wit and Learning, laid about him very furiously, and accused the Dean of Sabellianism and Tritheism, calling for the Animadversion of the National Synod, and both Univerfities, the last of which Two venerable Bodies did stand by him with their Censure, and the other, in all Probability, would have done the fame; but King William interpos'd his Royal Authority in a Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, whereby an End was put to that virulent Dispute, though not before it had poisoned the Minds of many of his Majesty's uncautious Subjects, who continued halting between Two Opinions; and from the Dignity and Characters of the Persons concerned in the Debate, knew not which Side to adhere to. As for the Third, Doctor Burnet, while they were making Havock of the Doctrines contained in the New Testament, he made a Jeft of some of the Reveal'd Writings of the Old, and in a Book of his called Archiologia, exploded feveral Passages in Genesis, and put to Ridicule what is thereby deliver'd down to us by the Holy Pen-Man, concerning the Fall of our First Parents, and the Curse laid upon the Serpent: Infomuch, that while Things were in a Ferment, and the Laity were unfettled in their Notions, from thefe Differences in Opinion maintained by their Spiritual Pastors, it was thought most adviseable to banter them into a better Temper, and shame them into less pernicious Measures, by the following Verses, which however ludicrous they may feem at first View, had their defired Effect, and are worthy of being inferted, in this Place, tho' written in the Nature of a Ballad.

to the Tune of A Soldier and a Saylon, &c.

A Dean and Prebenhary

And were at doubtful Strife, Sir,

Who led the better Life, Sir,

And was the bester Man?

The Dean he faid, That truly,
Since Bluff was so unruly,
He'd prove it to his Face, Sir,
That he had the most Grace, Sir,
And so the Fight began.

When Preb. neplied like Thunder
And roar'd out, 'Twas no Wonder,
Since Gods the Dean had Three, Sir,
And more by Two than he, Sir,
For he had got but One.

Now, as these Two were raging,
And in Disputes engaging,
The Master of the Charter
Said, Both had eaught a Tartar,
And Godshat there was none.

Were nothing but Supposes;
And be deserved Rebuke, Sir,
Who wrote the Pentateuch, Sir,
'Twas nothing but a Sham.

(9)

And as for Father Adam,
With Mistress Eve his Madam,
And what the Serpent spoke, Sir,
'Twas nothing but a Joke, Sir,
And well-invented Flam.

Thus in this Battle-Royal
As none would take denial,
The Dame for which they strove, Sir,
Could neither of them Love, Sir,
Since all had giv'n Offence.

He therefore slighly waiting, Left all Three Fools a prating, And being in a Fright, Sir, Religion took her Flight, Sir, And ne'er was heard of since.

Were such a Satyrical Invective sent abroad now upon a fresh occasion, it might perhaps stifle the Flames that are again enkindled from another Debate of a Religious Nature, and be of use to hinder the spreading Contagion that has already too much distus'd itself thro' all Parts of this divided Kingdom. But as the Writer of this short Account is in too inconsiderable a Station to offer his Decision in the Affair which he is going to give the Reader a Relation of, so he shall, without pointing out to whom the Victory inclines, give the Particulars of the Combat, and submit the Arguments made use of on all Hands, with the greatest Impartiality, to the Censure of the Publick.

The Two Principals in this Spiritual Warfare, are Persons highly honour'd in their respective Stations, who have set their Names to their respective Personnances. The First being fam'd for having receiv'd

ceiv'd the Thanks of a House of Commons, for alferting the Rights of the British Subjects, in a Book written by him, called, The Measures of Submission to the Civil Magistrates, consider'd, &c. and afterwards, in Confideration of his Attachment to the Illustrious House of Hanover, advanced to the See of Bangor. And the last is to be had in the greatest Regard, for having been made choice of to reprefent the famous Univertity of Cambridge, upon the Invitation of that of Franckfort upon the Oder, at the Commemoration of their last Jubilee, where he distinguish'd himself by his Learning and genteel Deportment, after the most engaging manner. The Ground of the Quarrel, whether just or not, let others judge, arose from hence. The Bishop had been pitch'd upon to be one of the Lent-Preachers before His Majefty; and accordingly, when is was his Turn to mount the Pulpit in the Royal Presence, on Sunday March 31. 1717. took for his Text the 36th Verse of the XVIIIth Chapter of the Gospel of St. John, Jesus answered, My Kingdom is not of this World. Which he was thought to handle so well, that he had it in Command from His Majesty to Print it. Accordingly it faw the Light some time after, under the Name of The NATURE of the KING-DOM or CHURCH of CHRIST; and his Lordship having given Offence some time before, by Some Politions laid down in a Pamphler of his, intituled, A Preservative against the Principle and Pradices of the Nonjuors both in Church and State; or, An Appeal to the Consciences and Common Sense of the Christian Laity; and did not want for very curious Enquirers after the Orthodoxy of the Doctrines contain'd therein. Amongst others, Dr. Snape, tho' a very hearty. Wellwisher to the Government, and actually in his present Majesty's Service, in the Quality of One of the

(9)

his Chaplains in Ordinary, took the Sermon in Hand, and, whether he thought the Bishop's Church of Christ repugnant to that establish'd in these Realms, or the Door of it laid too open for the Admission of Differers into the Privileges and Immunities thereof; or, whether it was his Intention to convince his Lordship of some suppos'd Errors that might tend to the Delufion of many weak Brethren, made his Remarks thereupon, not without some Disadvantages on his fide: Since the Bishop, by the Freedom he feem'd to give the Laity therein, had made himself popular, and might be fure to have them of his Side, especially such as were Lukewarm in their Esteem for the Office of the Priesthood, almost to a Man; whereas the Doctor could expect few or no Seconds to take Part with him, from the Dignity of the Person whom he weilded his Pen against, as a Prelate and a Peer.

Now, as I take upon me only to act within the Sphere of an Historian, so I shall do it with that Impartiality, which is requisite for such an Undertaking; and no otherwise set Matters in view, than that every one may be at liberty to make his own Remarks, without being prepossessed in Favour of the one or the other, without any Constructions or Annotations of

my own.

That I may come up to my Word, it will by no means be improper, first to lay before the publick View what the Bishop afferts for Matter of Fact, and in the next Place to give the Reader the several Objections rais'd by the Doctor against each Particular; both which shall be transcribed verbatim from the Sermon and Letter. After which I shall play off the Artillery planted by the Seconds of the Former upon the Intrenchments of the Latter, and leave it to the Judicious to determine, whether they make greater Execu-

Execution than Noise; and whether it had not been more for the Honour of one posses'd of Hierarchical Preferment and Deserts, to have been without such Champions, than to have been desended by them; since it may not be improbable but they, upon a due Weight of the Premises, may give into the Belief of the Poet's Quotation, who says,

Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis Tempus eget.

To begin with the Bishop himself: This Right Reverend Father, who may be thought by some, and not without Reason too, from the Tendency of his Discourse, to all in Concert with the Addresses from Buckinghamshire, and elsewhere, that are for Repealing the Acts of Schism, and other Unqualifying Acts pass'd against the Dissenters, after he has spoken of the Abuse of Words, and the wrong Signification given them, and instanc'd particularly in Two, Religion, and the Worship of God, which the Doctor, his Antagonist, owns often to have been misapplied, gives the following Definition of PRAYER.

BISHOP.

Prayer, in all our Lord's Directions about it, and particularly in that Form which he himself taught his Followers, was a calm, undisturbed Address to God, under the Notion of a Father, expressing those Sentiments and Wishes before him, which every fincere Mind ought to have. But the same Word, by the Help of Men, and voluminous Rules of Art, is come to signific Heat and Flame, in such a Manner, and to such a Degree, that a Man may be in the best Disposition in the World, and yet not be devout enough to Pray. And many an honest

Person hath been perplex'd by this Means with Doubts and Fears of being uncapable of Praying, for want of an Intensences of Heat, which has no more Relation to the Duty, than a Man's being in

' a Fever hath to the Sincerity of his Professions, or

Addresses to any Earthly Prince.

Apology for a Conduct towards your Lordship, which is warranted by your own Example. I have certainly the same Right to offer my Exceptions to a Sermon of your Lordships, which your self thought fit to assume, when but a Presbyter, in censuring a Discourse of a late excellent and worthy Prelate, tho, recommended to the World by the like high Authority to that which graces your Lordship's Title Page, replyes;

DOCTOR.

Your Lordship appears very unfavourable to any Thing that is External in the Service of God. To make Amends for which, one might, at least, have expected to meet with a very abundant Zeal, and more than ordinary Concern for that Part of Religion, which is seated in the Heart. But when, instead of that, we find you striking at the very Root of all Goodness, depreciating the solemn Duty of Prayer, by separating Devotion from it, which is the Life and Soul of it; how Shocking is the Disappoinment?

What, my Lord, is Piety become fo predominant in the Age, that the exorbitant Growth of it must be check'd? And is it to be check'd by such Hands? Does the Fever of Devotion rage so fiercely, as to stand in need of such cooling Pre-

fcriptions?

The Word (Prayer) by the help of Men, and voi luminous Rules of Art, is come to signific Heat and Flame. in the best Disposition in the World; and yet not Devout enough to Pray. Intenseness of Heat—being in a Fever: Very witty indeed? prety Ironies in the Mouth of a Christian Bistrop on so serious and sacred a Subject! This I am sure is touching the Visals of all that is Good, and consequently, by your Lordship's own Allowance, ought in Duty to be resisted with a more open and

undifguised Zeal than ordinary.

Nothing fure can be more contrary to the whole Stream and Tenour of the Sacred Writings, than what your Lordship has taught in this Paragraph, with reference to Prayer. You are pleased to call it a calm and undisturbed Address to God, and plead your Lord's Directions about it, in justification of your Notion. But no fuch Direction appears in Scripture. He cautions his Followers indeed against vain Repetitions and Oftentation, when they Pray : he censures the Pharifees for making long Prayers only for a Shew: But where does he fay, that Prayer muft be Calm and Undifturbed, or use any other Expression of the like Importance? Where does he attempt to moderate or affwage the Fervour of inward Devotion, or warn his Difciples against making their Requests to the Father with too much Vehemence?

So far from that, that we expressly read, he spake the Parable of the Widow and the unjust Judge, Luk. xviii. 1. To this End, that Men ought always to Pray, and not to Faint; i.e. to be urgent and importunate, and to solicite with Earnestness; as farther appears by the Parable of the Man that borrowed three Loaves of his Friend at Midnight, Luk. xi. 5. By that of the Publican, who smote

upon his Breaft, in a deep Compunction of Soul, and humble Senfe of his own Unworthiness, when he consider a how great a Sinner he had been: By the Directions, he gives them to ask, seek and knock: From none of which Circumstances can we be

encourag'd to hope, that God will hear our

Prayers, if they are cold and lifeless

But Prayer, you fay, in that Form which our Lord taught his Followers, was calm and undisturb'd. Most certainly it was not so at the Delivery, tho' it may be attended with those Properties in the Use, which depend on the Affection of him that uses it. Your Lordship may be calm and undisturbled, when you say the Lord's Prayer: But, I hope, there are those who repeat it with warmth and and a lively emotion of Spirit.

what was our Saviour's Will in this Case, than his own Practice. And did he satisfy himself, when he pray'd, with as little Devotion as would content your Lordship? Was he quite so indolent and unmoved, Luk.xxii.44. when being in an Agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his Sweat was as it were great Drops of Blood falling down to the Ground.

Lordship in mind of St. Paul's Commendation of Epaphras, Col. iv. 12. who, he tells the Colossians, laboured fervently for them in Prayer, and of St. James's Affertion, ch.v. 16. That the effectual fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man available much: With a multitude of other Texts, as full and apposite as any that have been cited. And now pray, my Lord, consider, how very different a Notion any common Capacity may form, upon a Perusal of these Scriptures, from those which your Lordship labours

labours to inculcate. 'Tis indeed amazing to me, with what possible View you could attempt to found a Doctrine, of a most pernicious Tendency in it self, on the Ruins of so many Texts of Scripture, unless it were to give a Specimen, in your own Person, of the Fallibility, or something

worse, of human Interpreters.

Again upon the same Head, says the Dollor, ' Your Lordship plainly opposes Heat and Flame, to that Calmness and Undisturbedness with which you would have our Addresses to God accompanied. And if you had meant to allow of any, the smallest Degree of Fervour or godly Transport that might disorder that Tranquility, and put the Soul into any kind of Agitation, it had been fair; and furely it was highly requifite to have told Us how far your Concessions extended. Could not one Line be afforded, in a Case of so much Consequence, to guard against Mistakes, and to fatisfy us in proper and direct Terms, that you ' did not mean to stifle all pious Breathings of the Soul, nor totally to extinguish all sparks of Devotion? But, in Truth, as the Matter is represented by your Lordship, there are many who appre-' hend you; and who cannot conceive how, according to your Lordship's Dictates, there can be any Room left for Elevation of Thought, in Contemplating the Majesty of God; for Acts of ' Shame and Abhorrence, and godly Contrition, when we are humbled with a sense of our Guilt; ' for a sprightly Joy and Exultation, under the Affu-' rance of Pardon; for grateful Ejaculations, when when we reflect on God's Mercies; nay, not even for the hope of Everlasting Bliss, or the fear of Everlafting Misery. Our Passions must all be stu-' pified, and every Power of our Souls lie dormant and bebecalm'd, for fear of discomposing that easy Serenity with which your Lordship would have us Pray.

This Freedom taken with the Bishop by the Doctor, caus'd as great a Liberty to be taken by that Prelate's Admirers against him; and his Letter had not been publish'd above a Day or Two, but all Hands were at work to reprimand him, as the Party called it, for his Insolence in holding Opinions different from those of a Bishop and a Peer.

Now as the Town swarms with Answers and Remarks upon the Doctor's Letter, out of which the forgoing Quotations are literally transcribed, it is but fitting that the whole Catalogue of them should be run over, wherein are to be found no less than Seven, under the following Appellations. The Layman's Second Letter to the Bishop of Bangor. A Vindication of the Honour and Prerogative of Christ's Church. An Answer to a Letter to the Bishop of Bangor, written by one Andrew Snap, D. D. A Letter to Dr. Andrew Snape. A Letter to Dr. Snape, by a Layman of Honour and Conscience: A Rod for the Eaton Schoolmaster's Back. A Letter to the Scholars of Eaton.

These are all that at the Time of Writing this have yet seen the Light, though more are expected from the Press, which is teeming with new Births, and promises very speedy Productions, especially one from the Bishop himself, who possibly, from his high Station in the Church, may overlook the Doctor, to take a more full and distinct Survey of the Con-

vocation's Report.

To begin with the First of these Satellites, or Life-Guard Men, to that bright Luminary of Learning and Religion, the Right Reverend Father in God, just spoken of, the Layman, after acknowledging the Obligations those of his Order are under for rescuing them from the Tyranny of the Clergy, who pride themselves in an unlimited Commission from Christ, and in a literal Sense would be Kings as well as Priests to God, comments upon the Doctor's preceding Remarks after this manner.

LAYMAN

From such a Chain of Sarcasms, one would conclude, that your Lordship had been endeavouring to everthrow the Whole of Christianity, and had a Defign to extirpate Vertue from amone Men: and that this Defign was as fully and clearly express'd as Words could make it. How does he exult upon the mention of a few innocent Words. which as afed by him (the Dollar) are fo far from having a bad Meaning, that they have no Meaning at all; and yet, the Use of these, he is fure, is touching the very Vitals of Christianity! Such a Rant is furprizing from a Person so extoll'd by some People for his eminent Learning and good Senfe. A Person intrusted, on those very Accounts, with the Education of the Youth of one of the greatest Seminaries of Literature in the Kingdom. But however, forasmuch as your Lordship has told us, we of the Laity are to judge for our felves; I shall fee what is the natural Sense of the Paragraph as it lies together, and how far the Doctor is right, or miltaken, in his farther Arguments upon it.

We naturally infer from hence, that your Lordhip's genuine Meaning was to extinguish Devotion in Prayer; and that, in order to it, you have
afferted a manifest Falshood, with respect to our

Saviour's Directions about it. If this be not your Lordship's Meaning (as undoubtedly it is not)

what shall we call these false Colours, Mistakes,

or wilful Perversions? But his Abuse of your Lordthip is here manifest. He omits now his Beadroll of the Words, Heat and Flame,—devout enough
to pray,—Intenseness of Heat, &c. which pleas'd
him so much before, because he knew they would
explain the Terms Calm and Undisturb'd, and he
had no other way to pervert the Sense, but by destroying the Connexion.

Your Lordship, as it appears to me: Of which there could be no need, it lying so plain in the Words themselves, but that this Gentleman has by his Artifices thrown his Reader's Mind into

Confusion about it.

In every Place where our Saviour directs his Disciples to pray, and particularly in the Lord's Prayer, he represents God under the Notion of a Father, and teaches them to express those Sentiments and Wishes before him, that every fincere Mind ought to have; which yet he was so far from directing to be offer'd up with that Manner of Heat, and Degree of Flame, of which the Essence of Prayer is now made to consist (to the Perplexity of many honest Persons, who fear they are incapable of Praying, for want of that Intensensis of Heat) that That compleat Form it self is a calm, undisturb'd Address to God, under the Notion of a Father.

'Certainly none but an Enthusiast can oppose the just and rational Doctrine here laid down by your Lordship; for all Men in their Wits, and unblinded by Passion, must see this mention of Prayer, in the Proof of your first Remark, was to restore it to its original Signification, for the sake of those honest Persons who are perplex'd through Fears of being unca-

uncapable of the Duty, as wanting that Degree

of Flame made now effential to it.

But the Doctor having raised a safe Scent, is resolved to follow it; and will oppose the Extream he imagines in your Lordship, by seeming to maintain that which you condemn. And because he cannot call the instance you mention, other than a calm Address, he has Recourse to other Places of Scripture to support his Argument; all which, as far as I can see, do not at all serve his Purpose.

The first is the Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge, Luke xviii. 1. To this End, that Men ought always to pray, and not to faint; which the Doctor by an i. 2. tays, is to be urgent and importunate, and to solicit with Earnestness; which must be in a peculiar Degree of Heat, if he means to urge it against your Lordship, and not with that natural importunity which your Lordship has said nothing against, and which cannot but attend the End mention'd, viz. That Men should pray always, and not faint.

And 'tis plain, that our Saviour in this, and the other Places mention'd under this Head, fuits his Parable to our Capacity, and speaks of God according to our Apprehensions of one another; that the only Design of them was to encourage our Perseverance in Prayer, and that our Faith in be-

ing answer'd should not fail.

from none of these Circumstances can we be encouraged to hope, that God will hear our Petitions, if they are cold and lifeless: But that is a very different thing, I think, from calm and undisturbed.

The Difingenuity of this Gentleman flagrantly appears in the next Paragraph; for after he has grofly

grofly missunderstood your Lordship, and brought the Terms cain, and undisturb'd, (oppos'd by your Lordship to such a Manner of Hear, and Degree of Flame, as renders a Man without it, tho' otherwise in the best Disposition in the World, not devout enough to pray) to fignify cold and lifeless, he then, with a peculiar Strain of Wit, says, Your Lordship may so say the Lord's Prayer; but out of his abundant Charity, he hopes there are some who repeat it otherwise.

By this time he hopes his Readers are not calm, and undiffurb'd; and therefore on this false Foundation he raises a pathetick Address to their Passions. What Influence his Declamation will have,

or what Adherents he will gain over, I am not able to foresee; but, I hope, the Number will

onot be very large.

n

Ş

Then the Layman recites the last Paragraph of the Dollar, as abovemention'd; and in Answer to it, says, I take it to be a sufficient Reply to this fine Rhetorical Flourish on what you have not said, That few can see your Silence a Fault, till they have set what you have said in a wrong Light.

We come next to the Bishop's second Champion, who being an anonymous Author like the first, but no ways inserior to him in the Use of proper and forcible Arguments, lays its down for Truth in Vindication of the Honour and Prerogative of Christ's Kingdom;

'That Prayer, without doubt, not only in the Form and Directions which our Lord himself gave his Followers, but I will venture to add, even in the Nature of the Duty, is a calm and undisturb'd Address to God. Where then is the Mastake?

Without Question, a perfect Composure of Mind,

a calm undisturb'd Soul, is the only fuitable Frame for a fervent, ardent, and most affectionate Address to the Almighty. To fay, that the Soul that prays with Earnestness, is therefore discomposid, is not calm and undiffurbid, is to fay, that he is not in a Frame how to pray. Let the Reader judge of the Justice the Doctor does, as well as the Weight of his Argument, by that which follows; wherein' he feems to think himself sharp upon my Lord the Bishop of Bingor. Pag. 12. of his Letter; he puts' this Piece of Rallery upon the Bishop; Your Lordship may be calm and undisturb'd when you say the Lord's-Prayer; but, I bope, there are those that repeat it with Warmth and a lively Emotion of Spirit. I would turn these Words into a juster Form, as to the Argument, as well as a more decent Form as to the Doctor, thus; You may, Sir, repeat the Lord's Prayer with Warmth, and lively ' Emotion of Spirit, but, I hope, Sir, you are calm and undiffurb'd in your Soul, when you are doing fo; and will add, I hope, Sir, a lively Emction of Spirit is not disturbing to any one in Prayer, much less is it a Breach upon the Calm of their ' Minds, or discomposing to them: No, on the contrary, it is the Perfection and Extream of a Soul ' perfectly calm and undisturb'd.

The Dollor, to support his Banter indeed, rather than his Argument, brings the Example of our Blessed Saviour in the Garden, when he was in an Agony, &c. Luke 22.44. The very Example is against him: That our Blessed Lord was in the highest, and indeed inconceivable Agitation of Soul, as to the View of what was before him, (viz.) a cruel and tormenting Death, is granted; yet it is evident that his Prayer was perfectly calm, his Mind perfectly composed, his Will entirely resigned,

and all confequently undefturbed. See the Bleffed Words of ithat most calm oundiffer bed "Prayer. Father if thou be willing, remove this cup from me. This he prayed earnestly for Noneican fay our Lord did not pray with a due Ferveney : But' mark the Serenity, the Calmaels, the audiffurbed Temper of his Soul, the entire Refignation, Nevertheless not my Will, but thine be done and fate the Difference between a calm, undisturbed, yet earnest and fervent Praying, and a Rapture of the Paffions, a Religious Rage, an Enthusiastick Hear and Flame in the Duty of Prayer. Again, Let us look into the Old Testament, there the Example of Elijah and the Priests of Baal, will exactly describe this Part we have it in Kings 18, 26, 28. The Story is known and the Occasion. There were, 1. Baal's Priefts calling upon their Idol. And 2. Elijub calling upon his God; and the God that answer'd by Fire, was to be acknowledged for the True GOD. Baal's Priefts having dreffed their Sacrifice, and laid it upon the Altar, cried aloud. O BAAL, bear us, from Morning even to Noon. fo long they were calm and undiffurb'd; after this they began to be frantick, making a thousand antick Gestures, the Effect of a Religious Rapture, leaping upon the very Altar itself; and this not answering, they grew perfectly mad, crying aloud, Ceutting their Flesh with Knives and Lancets, till the Blood gusbed out: This was Heat and Flame now acted to the Life; this is that Intenseness of Heat, to which the Bishop's calm and undisturb'd Address is oppos'd.

Now to go back to the Story; Elijah having given Backs Priests as much Time as they defired for their Madness and Rage, i. e. their Heat and Flame, to vent itself, he addresses himself to God with

with all the Temper, and Serionfoels of a calm. undiffurbed Mind, composed in the highest manner imaginable, fix'd upon God's Omnipotence: his Faith being affured he should be heard, for his Life lay upon the Hazard of it. Thus compos'd, he prays with an inimitable Fervour and Ardency of Soul. The Words of that Prayer are fuch as sufficiently testifie his Calmness of Mind. his undisturbed Frame; and yet they express such a Flaming Zeal, such an Heat as is out-done by no Example, even in the Scriprute litfelf, except that of our Saviour in his Agony, mentioned just now. Let us read the Words, they will move the Soul, even in the Repetition, and yet perfectly calm and undiffurbed. How calm, and how confirm'd in his own Breaft was he in his Preparations, digging Trenches, and pouring Water on the Altar, to take away all Pretence of any conceal'd Fire being kept there, and shewing that he was fully affured of an Answer from Heaven by Fire. to the Confusion of the Idolaters? When all was over, and the Miracle expected, he fends up his flaming, inspir'd Prayer, with such an Ardour as few have ever prayed with fince, Ver. 36, 37. LORD GOD of Abraham, Ifaac, and Facob, let it be known this Day that thou art GOD in Ifrael, and that I am thy Servant, and that I have done all thefe Things at thy Word: Hear me, O LORD, bear me, that That People may know that thou art the LORD GOD, and that thou hast turned their Hearts back again.

Here was Fervency and a true Ardour of Soul, express'd in the most intense Degrees of it, and yet with all the Tokens of a Mind perfectly calm and undisturb'd: And if the Dostor knows nothing of a composed, calm, undisturb'd Mind in addressing to

God as a Father; I have reason to call that Assitance of my Charity to perswade me he knows any Thing of that Prayer which is so often described and directed in the Scripture, and which

' is called Praying in the Spirit.

Sure the Doctor, while he busies himself to enus merate Quotations, where earnest Prayer, and the stirring up the Affections in praying to God are directed, and recommended in the Scriptures, has forgot the many Texts of Scripture which diffinguish between the inward and the apparent Heat and Flame in this Prayer : Without queltion, the inspired Penman of that Part of the Scripture, ' Foel ii. 13. had this very Thing in View : He faw that there were a Set of People then, as well as fince, who placed their Worthip in a Hypocritical, Noify, flanderous Addressing to God, more contrived to Influence the Peoples Hearing, than to Express truly the Devotion of the Soul of the Person praying: And to reprove this Abuse in the fmartest Manner possible, he obtain's Permission' to speak in the First Person of God himself, Thus ' faith the Lord, Turn ye even to me with all your Heart, with Fasting and with Weeping, and with Mourning, and rend your Hearts and not your Gar-ments. The rending the Garments here, is the Heas and Flame which those People would have had God to accept instead of Prayer, and would have " Men believe none could be faid to Pray, who did onot do so, nay, that the they were in the best Disposition in the World, yet that they were not Devout enough to Pray, if they could not flie out into those Agitations and religious Frenzies as they did. This is what the Bishop of Bangor condemns in our Modern People, who pretend Prayer must confist in such fanctified Raptures, such Elevations

of Voices such Gestures, such Agitations differing from other People. I need not tell the Dollor, who they grethat do fo, or that there are some who thinkingo Man devout enough to Pray, the be in the best Disposition in the World, unless he appear thus gransported and elevated; and unless he can fly out into fuch Excelles, as these are. And does the Bilhop, by this, condemn Fervency in Prayers; then fo God himfelf also condemns it. When Hannah prayed in the Tabernacle, and Eli the High Priest marking ber Mouth, only thought she was Drunk it appear's that the was only Silent. speaking in Whisper's to him who hears in Secret ? and yet it is faid, she poured out her Soul : For her Silence the Scripture is express, 1 Sam. i. 13. Now . Hannah spake in her Heart, only her Lips mov'd but ber Voice was not beard, therefore Elithought the had been drunken. Let any one but read the Prayer which the made; there is a full Extent of holy Fervour express'd in it, the was in bitterness of Soul, and wept fore: V. 10. She pray'd vehement-5 ly and proceeded from Prayer, to that which is the highest pitch of vehement Defire; the vamed a Vow to the Lord: v. II. She poured out her Soul. before the Lord: v. 15, and yet; v. 13. Her Voice was not beard; v. 12. Eli only mark'd ber Mouth! hinow

This Author proceeds to strengthen his Argument by other Positions, and quotes, in Desence of the Bishop, our Saviour's Direction for Prayer, out of the 6th of Mathew, v. 5, 6. When thou Prayest, thou shalt not be as the Hypocrites are: but thou when thou Prayest, enter into thy Closet, and when thou hast shut thy Door, Pray, &c. But since what has been already said by him seems to go as far as what has been alledg'd by the Dostor, let us see what the Bishop's Third Champion

Champion fays upon the same Head, who at one and the same Time blames the Doctor for treating the Bishop with Bishinfgate Language, and makes use of it himself in his Three Penyworth of Anno; tations, called,

0

0

14

ł

An Answer to a Letter to the Bishop of Bangor, written by one Andrew Snap, D. D.

Here, after summing up all the Truths which he allows to be contain'd in Mr. Snap's Letter, in professing him to be very Sincere, when he tells us, that he has very little Capacity to engage in Controversy, that this is a Church of which he has been many Years an unworthy Minister, that it is but a scanty Portion of Reason with which it has pleased God to enlighten him, beyond which Three undeniable Propositions he will not allow that there is one true Line in the whole 39 Pages of his Letter; and the low familiar Appellations of honest Snap, Schoolmaster, dear Andrew, Restor of a Place near Billinsgate, he goes on with his railing Accusations, for which he ought to have for Answer the Words of St. Jude, which say, the Lord rebuke thee, thus;

Thou hast before owned thy self to be an unworthy Minister, and here thou hast prov'd thy self
to be just as unworthy a School-master. Did ever any
Man that pretended to speak common English to
this Hour, understand by Calm and Undisturbed, Cold
and Lifeles? Calmness has always been taken
for that temperate State, which is neither too Hot
nor too Cold, Now, Snap, if the only Thing, by
which God has distinguish'd Man from the Brutes,
is by his Reason, then certainly the more of that
he has about him, the more sit is he to Address
his Maker. When a Man is Calm, his Reason governs, and he is most capable of expressing him-

felf

felf with Decency to his Creator; but when he is full of Heat and Flame, his Passions certainly hurry away his Sense, and he is apt to break out into Raptures and Freedoms very unbecoming a dependent Creature. The Divine Reason is for ever Calm and Undisturbed; but the Frailty of Human Nature is such, that our Reason is seldom otherwise than clouded with Passions; and shall we imagine that the very Thing, in which our Weakness most appears, is a Circumstance that recommends our Prayers to the Almighty?

But not to enter into a serious Dispute with a Man whose Arguments are all a Jest: Pray let me ask this Merry Divine some few Questions concerning his Scripture Instances. Pray, Snap, how, and in what Part of Holy-Writ, haft thou discover'd that the Widow was not Calm, but that she demanded the Judge to relieve her, in a Paffion? Does St. Luke tell thee that the Three Loaves were borrow'd at Midnight in a Heat? And art thou so weak as to mistake the poor Publican's " Humility and Weakness, for Intenseness of Heat? These are Quotations, I am fure, not a Jot to thy Purpose, no more than are the Directions to Ask. ' Seek, and Knock; for none of those Metaphors can ' imply, that we are to Pray in a Flame; nay, I believe, Snap, that if you were to Knock at any " Man's Door in a Passion, you would scarce find that

he would let you in the fooner for it.
You might with just as much Pretence have said,
that it was a design'd Burlesque upon Homer's Iliads,

Lucian's Dialogues, or Scapula's Lexicon, for the two Greek words are doubless in those Authors,

as well as in St. Luke's Gospel. But sure there never was a Boy lash'd in thy own School for a more ridiculous Piece of Impertinence, than this;

· be-

ly

ut

a

Ja.

n

11

r

because extenses fignifies earnestly or intensely; (without one word of Heat or Flame;) therefore the Bishop speaking of Intenseness of Heat, alluded to that Passage. At this rate, both his Sermon, and your Answer are Burlesques upon the Old and ' New-Testament, because there is not one Word printed in either of them, but I will engage to find in some Part or other of the Bible. But to enter a ' little farther into the Argument : Do'ft thou not know (unworthy Minister as thou art) that the Agony our Saviour felt in the Garden, is recorded in Holy Writ to demonstrate to us, that he was really a Man, and had the Paffions and Weakneffes (Sin only excepted) of other Men; for otherwise he would no more have been mov'd at that In-' flant of Tryal, than at any other Time. What his bitter Cup was, no Mortal can pretend to know, but we may be certain it was fuch an Agony as no other Man, but the Son of God, could undergo. How then can his Behaviour under it, be a Rule to the rest of Mankind how they shall Pray, upon the common Occasions of Life? It seems to me, burlesquing his Agony to a great degree, when a Man shall recommend the same Earnestness and Emotion which Christ had in the Hour of Death, to Persons in perfect Health, who have no Sufferings and Pains, to move and diffurb them. Before I quit this scandalous Paragraph, I must as-" fure you, Friend Snap, that if your Letter had been publish'd by a concealed Author, the scurrilous Language, and the vile Infinuations contained in ir, ' might not perhaps have directed me to the very ' Man, but they would have given me much Light ' into the Matter, that I cou'd have swore it was some Pedantick Schoolmaster, or Monkish * Collegiate. No other fort of Creature could have D 2

From this Man of Drollery and Gaiery, who uses such light and trivial Expressions, as, I could have swore, while he is making mention of Christ's bloody Sweat and Agony, our next Application must be to a more grave and solemn Author, who first gives you an Account of his Faith, and who professes himself a plain Reader of the Bible, without regard to either the Fathers, the Commentators, or any particular Sect of Christians, to regulate his Faith and his Practice by, declares in his

Letter to Dr. Andrew Snape, occasion'd by his Letto the Bishop of Bangor.

' Your first Charge against the Bishop of Bangor, fays in Effect, that he recommends Indolence and Inattention as Excellencies in Prayer: Whereas to me he feems only to condemn Enthusiasm, and to represent Prayer as a reasonable act of Devotion. And the Texts you have quoted do not carry it farther: Neither was the Agony our Saviour was in, when he Pray'd, the effect of his Prayer, but of his Passion and Sufferings. Certainly a Petitioner upon any Occasion, may be very earnest, without using either the Gesture or the Language of a ' Madman: Then you wonder his Lordship should not, at least, for fear of being misunderstood (by fuch. I suppose, as are resolved to misunderstand him) throw in an Expression or two to guard the Unwary against any possibility of being led into a Mifake. This puts me in mind of a lazy, cunning ' Varlet I once fent of a Message, that required ' fome Expedition; but cautioned him not to ride fo inconsiderately as to break his Neck, and endanger my Horse: Upon which the Fellow grew fo very Wife, and feemingly punctual to my Orders. ders, that he walked the Horse going and coming, and when I chid him for his Delay, turned the Blame upon me.

15.

fes

eat

ore

an

ain he

B

ce

et-

or,

br

to

to

n.

it

25

ıt

75

ıt

2

d

y

When in steps another Antagonist, and by giving himself a good Word in his Title Page, like a true Master of Defence, takes up the Cudgels against the Doctor, and lays at him, after this Manner, in his

Letter to Dr. Snape, from a LAYMAN of Confcience and Common Senfe.

" As for the other Texts you quote, of labouring fervently in Prayer, &c. I must once for all tell you, that reasonable People will suppose that Fervency to be a labouring of the Mind in the Com-· position and Aptness of the Address, and not of the Body in the Delivery of it. For, if it were others wife, according to your Notions, People that had occasion to Pray much, must be fatigued in the End, that they could not be at Leifure for any Temporal Labour. Nay, the Ladies, and fome others of weak Constitutions, and strong Zeal, after these Agonies, would come off well, if they mis'd a Fit of Sickness, or escap'd catching a vi-This is really Truth, tho your liolent Cold. Charity may make you think it in me a downright Burlesque of our Saviour's Agony; however the Venerable Name in the Front of his Lordship's ' Sermon, prevented you from speaking of him. But now we are come to the Point. As you have been all this while interpreting the Bishop's Meaning in a peculiar Sense of your own, for fear ' he should find some Hole to creep out ar, you are resolved to secure him; in order to do which, you pronounce, that his Readers will not understand those

those qualifying Phrases in such a Manner, and to fuch a Degree, by which his Lordship thinks to moderate what appears so offensive. What, are you resolved to give his Lordship no Quarter? No, if you had him but once fure in your Clutches, and if understanding his Words and Periods otherwise than he meant them, and they fignify in the common Acceptation, if gueffing at his Pronunciation, or any other Guess-work would do the Business. Lord have Mercy upon the poor Bishop. ' Your next Paragraph afferts, That his Lordship opposes Heat and Flame, to Calmness and Undisturbedness in our Addresses to God; and from thence you infer, That he means to stifle all pious Breathings of the Soul, &c. That he leaves no room for Elevation of Thought in contemplating the Ma-' jesty of God, for Alts of Shame, Abhorrence, and Godly Contrition, with a Catalogue of the different Passions the Soul is to assume upon different Occasions. What strange Misconstruction and "Misapplication is this! Without any regard to Reafon, Sense, or Christianity. Why, Doctor, is it not possible, that a Man may appear Calm and Undisturbed, and yet have a passionate Defire for fome very defirable Temporal Objects? And may not the Soul have its pious Breathings, without running it felf out of Breath; and be warm in its Devotions, without the Sparks flying about our Ears? Cannot I, in my Country Walk, upon a fine, genial, springly Day, feel an Elevation of ' Thought, in contemplating the Majesty of God, without Hallooing and Whooping, and swinging my Hat over my Head, as the Clowns do at a Country Election, that the Knight of the Shire

may fee who were his Friends? And why may not a Man of Sense and Reason feel in hanself the

utmost

10

to

OU

if

ind

ife

on,

efs,

nip

di-

om

US

la-

and

er-

ent

ind

to

or,

lm

ire

ind th-

in

our

of

od.

ire

Jay

the

oft

utmost Satisfaction from God's Benefits, and be filled with Gratitude, in an Acknowledgment of them in the House of God, or his own Closer, without breaking out into one of your Flames, and lofing his Senses in an assumed Transport? For fuch it must be, if you teach People Flames with their Devotions; fince all are not of a Sprightliness and Volatility to kindle alike by Natural Inflind. But then, as for Acts of Shame and Abborrence, which, you fay, it is so necessary to shew; if they are to confift of any thing more than a Contrition of Mind, and inward Deteffation, pray thew your Authority for it. In the mean time, take one Text of Scripture against ir, which will weigh with me beyond all you can bring for it, in the Words of our Blessed Lord, When ye fast, be not like the Hypocrites of a fad Countenance, for they diffigure their Faces, that they may appear unto Men to fast, &c. God requires of us there a chearful Countenance, while we are fasting and doing Acts of Contrition; and that we should appear privately and inwardly to him to Fast, because he sees the Heart. But this Doctor, I am afraid, will hardly keep you from wearing a fad ' Countenance next Publick Fast.

The last Animadverter upon the Doctor's Letter to the Bishop of Bangor, is one that personates a Country School-Boy, and calls his doughty Performance, A Rod for the Eaton Schoolmaster's Back; supposed to come out of a Bookseller's Mint near Temple-Bar, that cannot drop the Remembrance of Birch, from a late Exercise he went through among the Westminster Scholars. This Lad, or Youth, or Man, call him which you will, is very short in his Observations, and consequently less tiresome than some

6 C

6 P

. 1

· a

m

25

ex

to

it

E

t

fome of the Billiop's other Vindicators, and gives his Opinion of his Lordship's Definition of Prayer after this manner:

Letter from a Country School-Boy.

What can be a finer and more just Description of Prayer, together with the Abuse of it, than this? One would think it impossible for a Man of the most ordinary Understanding to read the last Sentence, which compares the Intensenses of Heat his Lordship was speaking of, to a Fever in the Body, to imagine that he meant any other than such a Heat as supposes Disorder. But by this, and several other Instances I could produce, we are plainly taught, that the best way of Answering what you are pleased to offer against the Bishop, is by quoting his Lordship's own Words against the second could be supposed to offer against the Bishop,

. vou. But alas! 'tis too obvious, Sir, that you take this Opportunity of carping at his Lordship's Expressions, on purpose to serve a Turn, and that you might make every thing a Crime which comes from him. Even we Boys can plainly perceive this, and therefore take no notice of all you ' afterwards fay on that Head, tho' you feem to be ' so affectedly elaborate about it. 'Tis well your Character is not unknown, and that fome High-Church Folks about us are not infenfible upon what Principle you do it; for else I should have beard you before now, I don't question, bitterly curs'd by them, and call'd a Damn'd Presbyterian Son of a --- for writing in fuch a canting manner. But I shall leave this, only putting it to your Conscience, whether 'tis behaving like a Christian, much less like a Divine of the Church of England, to represent a Prelate of the same 6 Church

Church; Eminent for his great Learning, known

' Piety, and strict Integrity; I say, to represent fuch an one (as you do throughout your Letter)

as the vilest Contemner of Religion, and one who

endeavours to stab the very Vitals of it.

Another Pamphlet has likewise seen the Light, midwif'd into the World from the same Occasion as those from which Quotations have been already extracted; but tho' it feems to bear fome Analogy to that which has been last recited from a view of its Title, it being called A Letter to the Scholars of Eaton, occasion'd by their Master Dr. Snape's Letter to the Bilbop of Bangor: it is not thought worthy of Observation, having nothing in it relating to the Subject in Dispute, and being couch'd in general Terms under the Notion of inftilling into them more weighty Matters, than, the Editor fays, are commonly learn'd in Shools and Univertities, and intended, if he fpeaks Truth, for the Improvement of Reason, the Love of Justice, the Value of Liberty, the Duty owing to one's Country, and the Laws. But with what real Defign it is fet forth at this time of Day, let those, that will give themselves leifure to read it, judge, fince the Method I have taken upon me to make use of, demands my Return of other Propositions laid down by the Bishop in his Sermon, that are oppos'd by the Doctor, and maintain'd by those Authors above-mentioned that have written in his Lordship's Vindication.

But as this cursory Review would swell to too great a Bulk, if I should dwell upon this Controverted Point, so I shall omit the Bishop's Explication of the Love of God, which may aprly enough coincide E with

with that of Prayer, with what Dr. Snape and his Answerers have severally alledg'd thereupon, to come to an Argument more particularly handled, and inveigh'd against, than any one in the whole Sermon, and that is the Bishop's Description of the Church of Christ.

SERMON.

' As the Church of Christ is the Kingdom of 'Christ, he himself is King; and in this it is im-' ply'd, that he is himself the fole Lawgiver to his 'Subjects; and himfelf the fole Judge of their Be-' haviour in the Affairs of Conscience and Eternal Salvation. And in this sense therefore his Kingdom is not of this World; that he hath in these Points, left behind him, no vifible, human Autho-' rity, no Vice gerents, who can be faid properly to ' fupply his Place, no Interpreters, upon whom his ' Subjects are absolutely to depend; no Judges over the Consciences or Religion of his People: For ' if this were so, then any such absolute Vice-gerent " Authority, either for the making new Laws, or ' interpreting old ones, or judging his Subjects in Religious Matters, were lodg'd in any Men upon Earth, the Consequence would be, that what still retains the Name of the Church of Christ, would onot be the Kingdom of Christ, but the Kingdom of those Men vested with such an Authority. For whoever hath fuch an Authority of making Laws, is fo far a King, and whoever can add new Laws to those of Christ, equally obligatory, is as truly a King as Christ himself: Nay, whoever hath an ' absolute Authority to interpret any written or spoken Laws, it is he, who is truly the Law-giver to all

all Intents and Purposes, and not the Person who

first wrote or spoke them.

his

to

ed.

ole

he

of

1-

S

' If any Men upon Earth have a Right to add to the Sandions of his Laws, that is to increase the Number, or to alter the Nature of the Rewards and Punishments of his Subjects, in Matters of Conscience or Salvation; they are so far Kings in his stead, and reign in their own Kingdom, and not in his. So it is, whenever they affume to themselves Tribunals, and exercise a Judgment over the Consciences of Men; and affume to themselves the Determination of fuch Points, as cannot be determined, but by One who knows the Hearts; or when they make any of their Declarations or Decifions, to concern and ' affect the State of Christ's Subjects, with regard ' to the Favour of God: This is so far the taking " Christ's Kingdom out of his Hands, and placing it in their own.

' The Sandions of Chrift's Law, are Rewards and Punishments. But of what Sort? not the Rewards of this World, not the Offices or Glories of this State, not the Pains of Prisons, Banishments, Fines, ' nor any leffer or more moderate Penalties, nay, not ' the much lesser Negative Discouragements, that belong to Human Society. He was far from think-' ing that These could be the Instruments of such a Perswasion, as he thought acceptable to God. But as the great End of his Kingdom was to guide ' Men to Happiness, after the short Images of it were over here below; so he took his Motives ' from that Place where his Kingdom first began, and where it was at last to End; from those Rewards and Punishments in a future State, which had no Relation to this World; and to shew that his E 2 ' KingKingdom was not of this World, all the Santtions which he thought fit to give his Laws, were not

of this World at all.

' Now, where-ever this is practis'd, whether in a great degree or a small, in that Place, there is ' fo far a Change, from a Kingdom which is not of his World, to a Kingdom which is of this World. As foon as ever you hear of any of the Engines of this World, whether of the greater or leffer Sort, you must immediately think that then, and so far, the Kingdom of this World takes Place. For it the very Essence of God's Worship be Spirit and Truth : If Religion be Virtue and Charity. under the Belief of a Supream Governour, and ' Judge: If True, real Faith cannot be the Effect of Force; and if there can be no Reward, where there ' is no willing Choice; then in all, or any of these ' Cases, to apply Force or Flattery, Worldly Plea-' fure or Pain, is to act contrary to the Interest of true Religion, as it is plainly opposite to the Max-'ims upon which Christ founded his Kingdom; who chose the Motives that are not of this World, to support a Kingdom which is not of this World. "And indeed, it is too visible to be hid, that whereever the Rewards and Punishments are changed from future to present, from the World to come, to the World now in Possession; there, the Kingdom founded by our Savour is, in the Nature of it, so far changed, that it is become in such a Degree, what he professed his Kingdom was not: That is, of this World; of the fame Sort with o-' ther common Earthly Kingdoms, in which the Rewards are Worldly Honours, Posts, Offices, Pomp, Attendance, Dominion; and the Punishments are Prilons. Fines, Banishments, Gallies and Racks, or something less of the same Sort. Dr.

Dr. Snape's Letter to the Bifbop of Bangor.

' This Church of Christ, according to your Lordthip, is the Kingdom of Christ, and a Kingdom of which he is himself not only the sole King, but the fole Lawgiver, the fole Judge, the fole Interpreter of his own Laws; a Kingdom in which he neither Acts himself, nor has invested any one else with an Authority to A& for him. And, you are pleas'd to infer; Page 13, by one of the oddest Consequences that ever was drawn from any Proposition, that because he never interposes himfelf, therefore he has left no Deputy: Which if he did interpose; there would certainly be no Occafion for but at his Departure into Heaven, when he was no longer to govern his Church in Person, he provided for the good Government of ' it by others whom he Commission'd to Teach and Expound his Laws, to bear Rule and Authority over his Subjects, to be his Vice-gerents to act in his Name and Stead, and so perpetuate a Succession of them thro' all succeeding Ages in the World, in whom the same Powers should be lodged; and ' tho' he made none of them Infallible, nor exempted them from human Frailties, yet still he required his Church to obey them, and to be guided by their Instructions, where they were not contrary to his.

Let us consider the Church under any other of those Images, by which it is represented in Scripture, and we shall find that they all combine to give us an Idea of it as of an orderly and well-govern'd Society. Sometimes it is figur'd to us under the Similitude of a Natural Body: But does that

confift of disjointed Members, loofely put together and connected by no Sinews, or Ligaments? No ' more can the Spiritual Body, without Rules and Orders, which are the Bands and Ligaments of Society. We are often faid to be united in one Body under Christ our Head, Ephes. iv. 16. From whom the whole Body fitly joyn'd together, and compatted by that which every foint supplieth, according to the effectual Working in the measure of every Part, maketh Increase of the Body, unto the edifying it self in Love. And he who is our Head. ver. 11, 12. gave some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers: for the Perfecting of the Saints, for the Work of the Ministry, for the Edifying of his Body. Take the Church as a Building, as fuch it is called, 1 Pet. ii. 5. Ephef. ii. 20. One Spiritual House built upon the Foundation of Prophets and Apostles, Fesus Corist himself being the Chief Core ner Stone. And Christians are compared to a Building fitly framed, growing to an Holy Temple in the Lord, Ephes. ii. 21. Can a Heap of uncemented Stones compose such a Building fitly framed? No more can a Number of Men calling ' themselves Christians, but under no Body's Governance or Direction, compose a Spiritual Edifice. Can a material Fabrick be of long Duration, with "no one to Survey it, to repair its Breaches, and prevent its Decay? No more could the Building of Christ's Church. Let us look upon the Body of Christians, as the Members of a large Houshold or Family. In that there must be Stewards, and and other governing Servants of different Degrees, to preserve a good Oeconomy. Let us consider them as Soldiers fighting under Christ's Banner,

and

and there we shall see occasion for General and

Subaltern Officers. And the Case will be still the

' same, if you take a View of the Church, under

any other Image.

'If any Man upon Earth have a Right to alter the Sanctions of Christ's Laws, that is to increase the Number, or alter the Number of the Rewards and

· Punishments of his Subjects, &c. that is to say, If

any King, Parliament, State, or Potentate, or any

Earthly Power whatfoever, shall encourage Religion by any Temporal Rewards, or discourage is

by any Temporal Penalties, they usurp the Dominion of Christ, and dethrone him from his Spiri-

' tual Kingdom.

This bears very hard indeed on the Acts for ' preventing Occasinal Conformity, and Schism, and ' let us suppose the Argument were to have its Ef-' feet towards the reverfing of them : How does your ' Lordship know it will stop there? How can you be fure that the Enemies of our Constitution will ' not borrow it of you, and apply it to their own ' Purposes? For if it were true, that no Men upon ' Earth have a Power of Enacting Laws, with Penal, or Promissory Sanctions in Matter of Conscience, ' this would equally strike at all the Incapacitating Laws in Force; not only against Protestant Dissenters, but Papists too: Neither the one, nor the other, it feems, are to be laid under fuch exclusive ' Forfeitures, or negative Discouragements. Christ's 'Kingdom is not of this World, and none of the Engines of this World are to be employ'd either for or against his Subjects.

'The very Acts that secure the Protestant Succession, and have made it impracticable for any Papist to ascend the Throne, excluding for ever all

of that Persuasion from such Claim as they might otherwise have a legal Title to, for no other Demerit, but purely for the Sake of their Religion,

must by this Reasoning be overthrown.

Nay, the very Act of Settlement, by Vertue of which his present Majesty possesses the Crown, would stand upon no better a Foot, wherein it is provided, as one of the Limitations, That whoso-ever shall bereaster come to the Possession of this Crown, shall joyn in Communion with the Church of

England, as by Law established.

'If your Lordthip's Reasonings are right, there never was any Part of the Catholick Church, either in the Days of the Apostles, or at any Time since, in any Nation of the World, but has, as a Church, acted in direct Opposition to the Will of our Blessed Saviour, and usurped an Authority that he had never delegated. All who have been interpreting his Laws, have been making Laws for him. All impos'd Terms of Communion, according to your Lordship, are finful, &c.

'Thus all Articles and Creeds are destroy'd at

once, which were settled by Men so assembled.
All Acts of General Councils were void and null from the Beginning. Nay, even the Decrees of the Council of Ferusalem, held by the Apostles themselves, were never of any Force, they sat there as Usurpers, they never had a Right to make any Laws which belongs solely and peculiarly to

their KING Christ Fesus.

Now in Answer to the First of these Paragraphs written by the Doctor, says the Author of

The Vindication of the Honour and Prerogative of Christ's Church,

only that the Doctor calls them, whom Christ has left behind, by the same Term, which the Bishop rejects, viz. Vice-gerents; which Word he will be hard put to it to find in the Scripture, tho' he adds, That the Places of Scripture which prove his Affertions are numerous: After which one would be apt to expect, that he might have given or have named at least one of them. Had the Doctor called these Persons Ministers, and not Vice-gerents, I should not have disputed the Matter with him, referring to the same Text, which he himself quotes, wherein there is not one Word of a Vice-gerent or Vice-roy substituted in Christ's stead, &c.

The Second and Third are oppos'd after this Manner, in

The LAYMAN's Second Letter to the Bishop, &c.

ther 'tis fit the Natural Body should have more Heads than one? As likewise, in Answer to the other Instances, whether 'tis proper in order to preserve a good Oeconomy in the large Houshold, or Family; that besides the Stewards and other govern-

c flould be also more than one Supream Lord and Master.

The Doctor's Four next Paragraphs are taken Notice of by the LAYMAN of Conscience and common Sense thus, in his

Letter to Dr. Andrew Snape.

' Suppose you do, infer from the Tenour of the Sermon, that no Prince or State has any Right from Jesus Christ to compel the Consciences of ' the People in Matters purely Religious: Does it therefore follow that the Authority of any Prince, State, or Earthly Power, is arraign'd.— In the next Place, if a Parliament, surpriz'd into over hafty Resolutions, or missed by artful and ill principled Members, should, in Consequence of this, ' prevail upon their Sovereign to give the Royal Affent to any Bill or Bills which shall afterwards appear prejudicial to the Good of the Nation, will any Man of Candour arraign me, as a Conteme ner of the Power of Parliaments, if he happens to infer from a Discourse of mine, that I think fuch and fuch Laws ought to be repealed and amended? You have either mistaken or wilfully put upon the Ads of Settlement and Succession. Their intent was not to fettle the Crown on this or that Prince, as a reward for his Religion; nor to deprive any Prince of it as a Punishment for his Perswasion in Religious Matters; but to provide in the best Manner for the Preservation of the Religion and Liberties of a brave People, by disabling any Po-

pilh

ere

nd

0-

nd

he

bt of

it

e,

er

54

al

ls

11

D-

I

d

n

It

n

d

pilh Prince from Tyranizing over them for the future, and by setting a Protestant King to rule over a Protestant Nation; and farther, by obliging all succeeding Kings of England to be not only Protestants, but to conform with the Establish'd Church.

As for the Doctor's Conclusion, it has a pretended Answer to it, in the following Words, from the Droll who stiles himself the Author of

An Answer to a Letter to the Bishop of Bangor, written by one Andrew Snap. D. D.

General Councils may recommend to the faithful fuch Things as they esteem most for the Interest of Religion, and the Weight of many grave Men agreeing in any Decision, will make the rest of Mankind to examine that Point with more than ordinary Care, and a wife Man will pay fo much deference to their Opinion, as not to diffent from it, but upon substantial Reasons: Farther Power than this, it is impossible an Assembly of fallible Men should have. As to the Decrees of the Council of Jerusalem, they stand upon a different Foot, since we cannot determine how far the Apostles might be inpired in the making of them. But of all Men how could my Friend the Dollor be fo far over feen, as to mention that Council? One of their Decrees was to abstain from things Strangled and from Blood. Now, that you should ever uphold the Authority of that Synod, feems fomewhat Extraordinary, especially, if we confider that you are not more famous at Eaton for any one Thing than your immoderate love of Black-Pud-F 2 ings; ing; this therefore, my Merry Andrew Snap was an impardonable in you.

To this the foregoing Author subjoins, sull as Wittily as Justly, upon the Dodor's concluding with saying, I am prevented by a very necessary Avocation, &c. The meaning of this is, I suppose, that while you were thus entirely taken up the Cause of Religion, one of your Boys has unluckyly ly stole away all the Cucumbers in your Garden, this enecessarily avocates you to tall for the Engines of this World, and exert your secular Arm, and so the Churches Defence must be left to some other Champion.

I should now go through with the Report of the Committee of the Lower House of Convocation, which gives as great a Weight to the Authorities contain'd in Dr. Snape's Letter, as they shew Faults and Weakneffes in the Sermon, and thou'd take a View of the Animadversions thereupon, in two Pamphlets lately fet forth with very specious Titles, to justify the common Saying of parting a good Face upon a bad Matter. The first called the Protest Protested; and the fecond entitled the Convocation anatomiz'd; to named I suppose, fince there could not be any other Reason, from the great Sale of Toland's Anatomy of the Stare of Great-Britain; and that he might be thought the Author thereof, fince for feventeen Pages together it does not so much as enter into the Merits of the Cause; and has nothing relating theteunto, but a Jargon of Words, as Church, Comedy, Jeff, Riddle, &c. and rather juftifies than retures the Affertions of that Venerable Body, who lay the Tendency of the Dollrines and Positions contain'd

vas

as

ng

fe,

he

y-

n,

n,

ne

of

2,

S

a

0

12

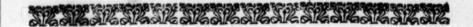
tain'd in the faid Sermon, is conceived to be (1.) First, To subvert all Government and Discipline in the Church of CHRIST, and to reduce his Kingdom to a State of Anarchy and Confusion. Secondly, To impugn and impeach the Regal Supremacy in Caufes Ecclestastical, and the Authority of the Legislature, to inforce Obedience in Matters of Religion by Civil Sandions fince the Author avers therein, That the Bilhop's Sermon rather to be an Admonition to the Civil Power who are concern'd in the Legislature and Government, distating to them that Christ Jefus being the fole King and Law-giver in his Church, they should not usurp either his Royal Supremacy, or his Right of Legislature; and this being speken in the Royal Audience, ftrongly argues, or at least infinuates, that it was intended thus by the Bilhop.' But most of the several Passages mentioned in the said Report having been pointed at in the Doctor's Letter, it is thought unnecessary to repeat them. Therefore let it suffice, that however cogent the Observations of the Clergy were on this Head, and thought worthy of Confideration by some, they were judg'd to be ill-timed, and destructive of Unity among Christian Subjects by the Court, and his Majesty was pleas'd, if not to put an End to it, to fet afide the Matter in Debate to a longer Day, and to prorogue the Convocation to the Tenth Day of November next enfuing; which justifies the Saying of the Country School Boy, in his Letter to the School-master of Eaton, who, speaking of the Lower House of Convocation, very pathetically has it, (page 8.) 'I suppose there is no Danger from what they can do in this Affair; for I have heard a Counfellor f in our Town fay, that the C-n derive their · Authority

Authority of Acting entirely from the King, and that they have no more Power to proceed in any Cafe whatfoever without his Licenfe, than fo many Balladfingers; to that we need not fear King GEORGE will never let one of his own Bishops be abused." However in Ifeu of all the aforesaid Contumelies which approbious Tongues fling upon the Convocation and Dr. Snape; the latter has the Satisfaction to fee his and their Politions not exploded by the Lower House of Parliament, who have made choice of him to preach before then on the Anniversary of the Reftoration of King Charles the Second, and the Royal Family, upon which folemn Occasion, there is no room to doubt but he will exert himfelf after a very duriful Manner, in defence of the Church and State, notwithstanding some Newsmongers give out that he is removed from being one of His Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary.

FINIS

bun of the letter it forther





Advertisements.

THE Report Reported; or, The Weakness and Injustice of the Proceedings of the Convocation, in the Censure of the Lord Bishop of Bangor, Examin'd and Expos'd. The Second Edition.

A General Pardon Confider'd, in its Circumstances and Consequences; particularly relating to the Exceptions said to be now in Debate; and to the Reafons why it came out no sooner. Price 6 d.

Both Printed for S. Baker, at the Black-Boy and Anchor in Pater-Nofter-Row. 1717.



Advertisements.

Linguistics of the Proceedings of the Connection is and tion, in the Confers of the Proceedings of the Connection, in the Confers of the Post Different Edition.

It and a dear mapped. The become Edition.

NEW General Parten Confident, in its Circumfitters

und Cost observes carriegistly relating to the Exasuccession at the bar new in Dourse, and to the RomLius wiff it can our matters to the Price 6 &

a Zab D. Helf for S. Baker, at the Black-Boy and

